

Expanding Coastal Adaptation in New York: A Framework for Floating Structures and its Co-Benefits

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GLOBAL

Land scarcity and climate change pose significant threats to the health of economies, communities, and ecologies in cities throughout the world. Impacts of these trends are coming into sharp focus along metropolitan coastlines, as these swaths of land are forced to balance an increasingly complex set of [commercial, industrial, social and ecological] services. Municipal efforts to adapt to sea level rise include both the engineering of physical protection and hardened critical infrastructure, as well as the softening of our cities edges to allow coasts to serve as transitional spaces that can absorb fluctuating water levels due to sea level rise and discrete storm events.

NATIONAL

The necessity of coastal adaptation to climate change has become clear in the United States over the last decade, with natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy ravaging large swaths of densely populated coastlines.

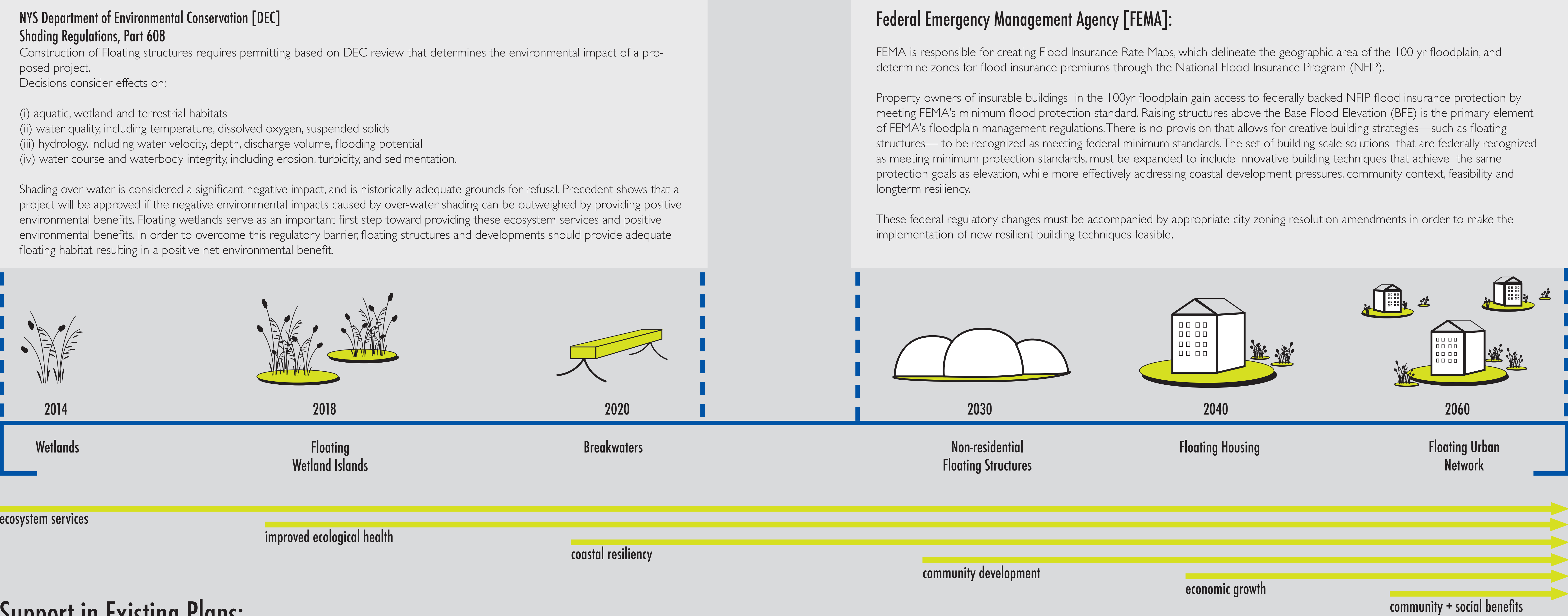
CITY

Through New York City's recovery from hurricane Sandy, "resiliency" has become the common thread in a new wave of planning efforts to better adapt the City's infrastructure, building stock and communities to minimize vulnerability and gracefully absorb impacts. Implicit to the notion of resiliency through adaptation is the underlying philosophy that increasing a city's capacity to be flexible—to bend without breaking—maximizes our ability to be responsive in the wake of disturbances like coastal storms.

Although the vision for New York City's coastlines include innovative and flexible adaptation measures, there is a mismatch between the regulations that govern coastal development and the waterfront policies that showcase our aspirations. Current policy trajectories shoot for innovation, while regulatory frameworks do not promote flexibility.

HOW CAN COASTAL ADAPTATION BE USED TO INCREASE RESILIENCY & MAXIMIZE THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY OF THE COAST?

Navigating Regulatory Barriers:



Support in Existing Plans:

